

MEETING SUMMARY
Southdale France Avenue Area Plan Process
Kick-Off
Thursday, March 26, 2015
Edina Senior Center

City Staff Present:

Scott Neal, City Manager
Cary Teague, Community Development Director
Joyce Repya, Senior Planner
Jackie Hoogenakker

Members of the Southdale France Avenue Area Plan Work Group Present:

Council Appointed: Michael Schroeder, Facilitator
Council Appointed: Lori Syverson
Council Appointed: Steve Brown, Resident
Council Appointed: Peter Fitzgerald, Business
Planning Commission Appointed: JoAnn Olsen, Planning Commissioner
Planning Commission Appointed: Steve Hobbs, Planning Commissioner

Council Present:

Kevin Staunton

Others Present

David VanDongen	5620 Kellogg Ave
Glen Whitesell	7116 Heatherton
Dan Petrosky	5204 Oaklawn Avenue
Dennis Withers	4504 Sedum Lane
Lynn Swon	4808 Hibiscus
Bill Helgeson	7128 Lynmar Lane
George Griffith	4444 Dunham Drive
Gene Persha	6917 Cornelia Drive
Robert Calgren	4713 Virginia Lane
Bob Kellmermeier	7201 Gloucester Drive
Paul Hughes	7208 Bristol Circle
Kim Montgomery	
Robb Gruman	
Colleen Wolfe	4408 Gilford Drive
Andrew Brown	5512 Park Place
Michael Fischer	4512 Dunham Drive
Mary Ellen Chamberlain	7004 Bristol Blvd.
Mark Chamberlain	7004 Bristol Blvd.

Janet Bohan	800 Coventry Place
John Bohan	800 Coventry Place
Stan Zahorsky	7129 Bristol Blvd.
Lori & Jim Grotz	5513 Park Place
Chris Bremer	6001 Ewing Avenue
Joni Giese	6712 Southdale Road
Lori Boisdain	3033 Excelsior Boulevard
Gwen Budd	4417 Fondell Drive
Seth Johnson	7121 Heatherton Trail
David Frenkel	4510 Lakeview Drive
Christy Misselt	4425 Dunham Drive
Bruce Kohn	4508 Claremore Court
Tom & Dee Bonneville	4378 Bruce Ave
B. Dornblaser	4630 Drexel Avenue
Bob Gubrud	4421 Ellsworth Drive
Adam Searline	5353 Wayzata Blvd.
Mark & Julie Manfred	4445 Dunham Drive
Jeanne Toia	7210 Bristol Cr
Ruth McIntyre	7013 Bristol Blvd
Jack Blum	4421 Gilford Drive
Emily Boettge	6816 Oaklawn Avenue
Jim Nelson	

I. Welcome and Introductions

Council Member Staunton welcomed all present and introduced Michael Schroeder facilitator.

II. Purpose and process

Michael Schroeder explained that the City Council approved a study of the “Greater Southdale Area” with emphasis on the west side of France Avenue that includes a Work Group comprised of 12 residents and commercial property/business owners. Schroeder reported six members of the “Work Group” were appointed by the Council and Commission and six others need to be nominated and appointed this evening. Schroeder noted that nominations would take place later in the evening by breaking into two groups, one group of neighborhood interest and the other commercial property/business owner interest. Schroeder outlined the agenda and delivered a power point presentation highlighting the history of the “Greater Southdale Area” from past to present and the area’s designation in the Edina Comprehensive Plan.

III. Questions

Mr. Schroeder asked for questions. Questions centered on the “makeup” of work group members appointed by the Council. Schroeder stressed that the direction from the Council was/is to find a balanced work group working toward a better greater Southdale area. Schroeder further noted that forming a work group to “study” the area doesn’t necessarily mean change. The goal of the Comprehensive Plan, Council, and Commission is to study the area and determine if changes would occur how to guide those changes. Concluding, Schroeder said everyone should also keep in mind that just because the City has initiated a study that doesn’t mean change.

IV. Explorations

Mr. Schroeder asked those present to break into small groups and work together to establish what matters to this area, the pressures faced by this area and to formulate ideas that improve, enhance and to make the greater Southdale area especially the west side of France Avenue a better place to live, work and visit.

V. Findings:

Small Group Members shared the following:

- Develop, create a more aesthetically pleasing France Avenue corridor streetscape. Consider islands with vegetation, pavers, sidewalks etc.
- Ensure that the pedestrian can safely navigate France Avenue, acknowledging it’s a busy County road; however, people would like to be able to cross it safely.
- Consider a pedestrian overpass or tunnel over/under France Avenue, noting the existing tunnel under York Avenue.
- Create buffer zones between residential properties and commercial.
- Pay close attention to traffic, pointing out increased density brings more traffic.
- Green Space (it’s important)
- Keep building height on the west side of France Avenue consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.
- Reconsider e/w traffic on 76th Street to take the pressure off West 70th Street.
- In all redevelopment (if any) create a space where people who live in the area can enjoy along with visitors.

VI. Nominations

There was some discussion on if the number of resident members on the work group (6) was fair. Mr. Schroeder explained that the Council directed a balance between groups; however, if one group wants more members that can certainly happen if the other group agrees. It was acknowledged that the commercial/business members of the work group are also Edina residents. The discussion ensued.

Residential nominations:

Harvey Turner
Julie Chamberlain
Glen Whitesell
Colleen Wolfe
Tom Bonneville
Stan Zahorsky

Appointed:

Residential: Harvey Turner, Julie Chamberlain and Colleen Wolfe
Commercial: Ben Martin, Robb Gruman, Jim Nelson

VII. Next Steps

Mr. Schroeder said the next step is the individual meetings of the working group. Schroeder said the meetings are open to the public; however, the work of the group is under a tight schedule. The working group is scheduled to meet on the following dates, April 6, April 9, April 20, April 23, a check-in meeting on April 25th and final meeting of the work group on April 27th. . Schroeder said the hope is to be finished by mid-May. Concluding, Schroeder said in all instances the goal of the Council is for the working group to work together for the greater good.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Staunton thanked everyone from coming and for taking part in the process.